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STATE DOCUMENTS

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
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Volume 7 Number 9

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
and Bureau of Labor Statistics

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.
2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.
3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).
4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.
5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.
6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.
7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.
8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.
9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.
10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.
11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.
14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

SERIES CHANGE

Annually, the series in this publication are changed to reflect the most recent benchmark. This procedure is necessary to establish trends based on universe trends rather than sample trends. These benchmark series are usually published in the March publication establishing a benchmark date from the previous year. The reason this publication contains new benchmarks and is being published in July, results from the conversion to the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification codes (SIC) from the 1967 SIC codes. This change, along with benchmarking, necessitated publishing new series on all civilian labor force, establishment, and seasonally adjusted data. All series published prior to this publication have been based on 1967 SIC codes and will no longer be used.

For the convenience of all users and to provide a statistically comparable data base, the civilian labor force and establishment data have been computed on the 1972 SIC codes beginning with January 1972 and continuing through the most recent month. The seasonally adjusted series have been revised from January 1975 through the most recent month reflecting these changes.

Included in this publication are the counties' civilian labor force annual averages for the years 1971 through 1976. The counties' monthly civilian labor force series for 1977 have been included and represent a statistically comparable data base to the statewide data benchmarks and 1972 SIC conversion. The methodology used in computing unemployment is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Handbook Method and is adjusted for additivity, i.e., all counties add to the statewide estimates. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) method is not used to adjust for additivity.

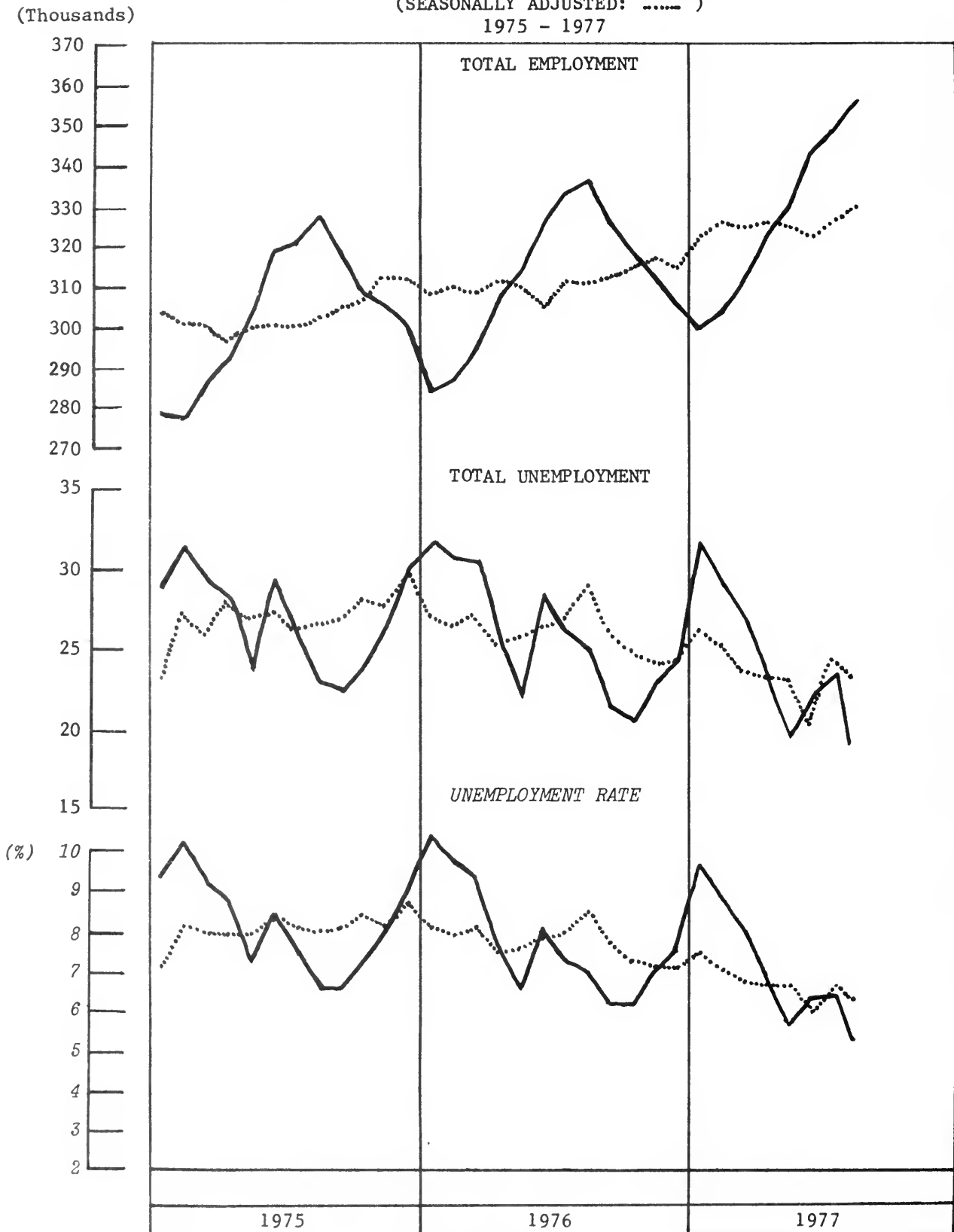
If you desire more information concerning the benchmarks, 1972 SIC conversion, series updates, or methodologies please feel free to contact Mr. Dick Gibson, Supervisor, Research and Analysis, Employment Security Division, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59601. Telephone: (406) 449-2430.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: —)

(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED:)

1975 - 1977



HIGHLIGHTS: AUGUST 1977



Montana's unemployment rate for August fell to 5.2% of the civilian labor force. Although employment did increase by 2,100 workers, the main thrust behind this improvement in the rate was the large decrease in unemployment, 4,500 individuals. Much of the drop in unemployment can be traced to a seasonal withdrawal from the labor pool by students and others who seek employment only during summer months. All of the gains in employment came in agriculture, a normal occurrence during the harvest season.

Unemployment insurance claims characteristics for August exhibit no basic changes in the composition of insured unemployment. However, the percentage of claims filed by females is increasing. Males made up only 54.3% of all claimants in August, which is considerably below the average for the first half of 1977 (72.5%). Among female claimants the predominant occupational attachment continues to be education, with eating and drinking establishments the second largest category. Over 26% of all male claimants reported construction as their last job. The next highest group was lumber and wood products with 8% of the male claimants.

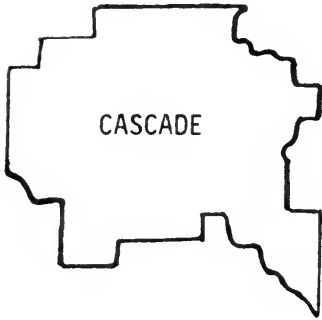
The high incidence of labor disputes in July distorted many of the employment related economic indices. Manufacturing employment rose to 25,100 in June, but now stands at 24,400, a drop of 700. Average weekly hours fared even worse. After increasing to 41.9 hours in June, this indicator fell to a three-year low of 36.6 hours. Labor turnover rates also displayed negative movements. Accessions, new hires, layoffs, and quits all reflected the inactivity in manufacturing.

Other economic indicators present a conflicting signal. Initial claims for unemployment benefits decreased 7.8% from July to August and, as previously noted, unemployment dropped by 4,500 during the period. A resurgence was also seen in building activity. Statewide building permits increased almost 10% from July. And, finally, seasonally-adjusted real spendable earnings for July are the highest they have been in the past four years and prospects for future increases are good.

Hence, there are divergent processes at work within the economy, but it is difficult to differentiate between effects of work stoppages due to labor disputes and broad-based changes in the economy. It is possible that we are in the middle of a brief pause, which is not an unusual occurrence during economic expansion. Forthcoming data for August and September should remove this uncertainty and reveal a clearer picture of economic development in the state.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



In August, the civilian labor force totaled 33,500 individuals, representing a decline of 700 from July's level. At the same time, the number of employed persons fell 400 from July, to 31,600 in August. This compares with an employed workforce of 30,400 in August 1976 - an annual gain of 1,200 workers. In the major industrial sectors, services and mining continue to account for the bulk of this year's employment growth, with 1,600 more employees than August one year ago.

The unemployment rate dropped from 6.5% in July to 5.6% in August. Too much emphasis should not be put on this situation, as declines in unemployment normally take place in August when agriculture and other summer oriented industries reach their employment peaks. However, at 1,900, the number of jobless is 700 below last year, when 7.9% of the civilian labor force was out of work.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

As reported in last month's issue, two major labor disputes were settled in Great Falls in late July. One involved about 600 workers and a smelting-manufacturing firm. An agreement was reached on July 26, although normal operations were not resumed until late August. As of early September about 100 laborers still had not been recalled since the origin of the dispute on July 1. The dispute between 172 workers and the city of Great Falls was settled on July 27 after a 26 day work stoppage. However, 13 workers covered under three separate unions were still unable to reach agreements as of early September.

Business activity was brisk in the area during the past month, revealing a continued bright economic climate in the Great Falls SMSA. Included in this activity were the relocation of two of the city's automotive dealers. One firm moved into a new 10,800 sq. ft. building, and the other into a new 28,500 sq. ft. facility. Cost of the latter structure was estimated at more than \$1.3 million. The two businesses jointly added about 27 workers to their payrolls. A Mexican style restaurant broke ground at the site of its second establishment in Great Falls. The new facility will contain 4,800 sq. ft. of space providing seating for about 86 persons. The building will feature Mexican architecture and is expected to be completed by late November at a cost of approximately \$325,000.

Early last winter, it was reported that a two-story, 220-unit motor hotel would be entering Great Falls in a new residential-commercial development near the fair grounds area. Officials revealed that the project is still in the making, and final construction plans have been completed.

In general, main street activity has been reportedly good in Great Falls. Back-to-school sales have contributed to the increases in retail trade.

In the construction industry, hirings have centered on replacement needs, with activity at peak levels. The Great Falls housing authority has received assurances that the city will receive funds for another 50 low income housing units, at an estimated cost totaling \$1.5 million.

The Great Falls SMSA appears to be enjoying a great year, economically. New business formations, construction activity, and a more healthy labor market bear out the area's progress.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In August the civilian labor pool stood at 51,300, down 100 from July, but 2,300 ahead of August 1976. Those holding employment totaled 49,300 persons, compared with 49,700 in July and 46,200 in the same month a year ago. In the industrial sector, August employment gains in the construction and trade industries were offset by equal losses in services and government. Since August 1976, 3,200 workers have been added to the area's non-farm and wage payrolls, with the trade and government sectors adding a total of 2,500 workers.

The unemployment situation improved in August, as 600 individuals left the jobless ranks. The jobless rate hit 3.9%, which is the lowest monthly rate for the Billings SMSA during the 1970's. Last month the unemployment rate stood at 5%, and in August 1976 5.8% of the civilian labor pool were out of work.



According to claim statistics from the Billings Job Service office, males filed about 57% of all unemployment claims during August. Among male claimants, just under one-half of the claims were filed by former construction or wholesale trade-durable goods workers. Among females, eating and drinking places and educational services were the two largest industries of last employment, with about 31% of all claims filed by women.

If decisions on an economy's health could be based solely on the state of the labor market, the Billings SMSA would be in great shape. The civilian labor force has grown at an annual rate of 6.7% from August 1976 to August 1977, which is one of the highest growth rates in the state. Also, as stated above, the unemployment rate reached its lowest level in this decade during August.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

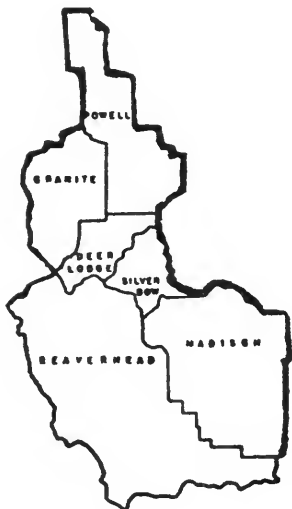
During the first nine months of 1977, 505 new business establishments entered the Billings SMSA. This compares with 360 over the same period one year ago. This indicator generally reflects a good business atmosphere and a growing population within a local economy.

Some of the new businesses announced during the past month include a retail clothing store in a shopping center east of Billings, a home furnishings store, a specialty clothing store in a Billings west shopping center and two new restaurants. Also, construction has started on the future site of another pizza parlor, and in October, construction is expected to begin on a new retail carpet outlet.

Last month, it was reported that building activity slackened in the Billings area, reverting to cumulative 1976 levels. With the release of August's data, it appears that the momentum might be restored in the area. The total through August hit 1,242 building permits, up 48 from 1,194 for January-August 1976. The valuation for the period totaled \$34.7 million for 1977 and \$33.8 million for 1976. This change was largely caused by a jump of 37 permits for single family residences with a total of 92 issued for August.

Construction and related industries will receive an additional boost, as it was announced that a \$3.1 million 107-unit high rise apartment has been approved. The seven-story building will house the elderly and the handicapped at projected rents of \$263 to \$310 per month.

ANACONDA - BUTTE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Anaconda - Butte LMA was 37,000 for the month of August. Of this number, 34,500 persons were employed, leaving 2,500 jobless and an unemployment rate of 6.8%.

Area unemployment claims activity showed a slight overall decrease during the month, due in part to the return of school employees as well as favorable weather conditions for continuing construction activity.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic activity in the six county LMA has shown some positive behavior during the past month. One center of attention has been the facility being constructed by the federal Energy Research and Development Administration in the Butte vicinity. At the present time about 85 persons are working on the project, and another 50 are expected to be hired. It has also been announced that

the research institute which will operate the facility is expected to hire 50 more employees by October 1, 1977, and to double its total staff over the coming year. The institute currently has a payroll of approximately \$350,000 monthly and that amount is expected to be boosted to \$500,000 with the forthcoming additions to the staff.

The new lumber mill in Granite County has expanded production and has been hiring extra workers for a second shift of 15 people. The increase in that area's logging industry should be a welcome addition to the local economy.

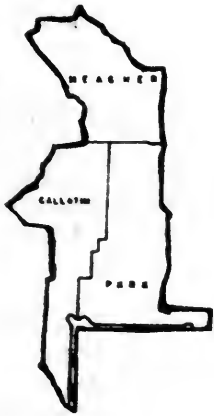
Another indicator of economic activity is the number of new businesses which are established in an area. The Anaconda - Butte LMA registered 21 starts in August, one less than the number recorded last month. However, the year-to-date business formations in 1977 are 228, compared with last year's 168. This reflects an improvement of nearly 36%.

Retail trade in Anaconda was reported to be at a seasonal peak, however some slowdown is expected now that Labor Day sales have passed. Trade in Butte has been very strong though, with many firms reporting high sales volumes. Businessmen seem to feel that the presence of employees of the energy research institute are responsible for the added income in the area.

A slight increase in construction related unemployment claims indicates some industry slowdown. Although construction has begun to taper off throughout the LMA, previously started buildings are sheltering much of the present employment.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



Civilian labor force figures for the Bozeman region are shaping up very well this month. The force grew by 800 persons over the past four weeks and now stands at 26,400. The number of those employed showed a substantial 4.5% increase, from 24,300 in July to 25,400 this month. Unemployment rates in the tri-county area were hovering between 3.5% and 4.0%, yielding an LMA average of 3.6%. This overall decrease of 1.5% unemployed compares very favorably with other state areas.

Unemployment claims reported from both Bozeman and Livingston local offices showed mixed activity levels from week to week. Most claims appeared to be associated with seasonal downturns in some service industries as well as certain construction projects.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

One of the brightest factors in the economic scene surrounding the greater Bozeman vicinity is the formation of new business firms. Continuing the positive trend of the past seven months, 36 new firms came into the area in August, bringing the cumulative total for the year to 312. This number is a full 77% greater than the number of new businesses begun in the same period last year and makes the Bozeman LMA one of the state-wide leaders in this particular aspect of the economy.

Construction in the area has remained steady for the most part throughout the month. Most of the work being completed appears to be revolving around a large volume of residential building continuing in the area. The 29 building permits issued in Bozeman during August are somewhat less than in previous summer months, but that number is high relative to permits issued in most other cities throughout the state.

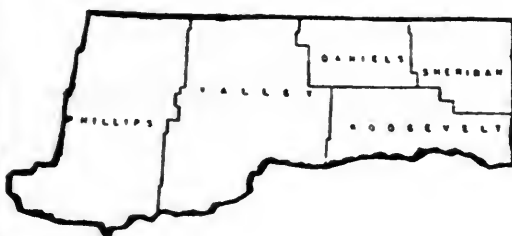
Retail trade industry has remained essentially stable during the past month. Sales have been maintained with back-to-school purchases and the return of many students to the area. The service sector has started to show some normal seasonal slowdown, however, as indicated by increased unemployment claims filed by service related workers in the Livingston and Bozeman areas.

Heavy rains have put a damper on agricultural activity in the LMA, delaying completion of harvest, second hay cutting, and seeding of winter wheat. Hiring in this sector is generally slow as well.

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GLASGOW LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The Glasgow labor market area has been experiencing a steady increase in the civilian labor force since February 1977. The labor force has swollen from 15,300 in February to 19,900 in August, a net increase of 4,600 workers. The demand for labor has completely consumed the influx of new workers along with an additional 300 workers already in the area, influencing the 3.8% point decrease in the

GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

unemployment rate from 8.8% in February to the present rate of 5.0%.

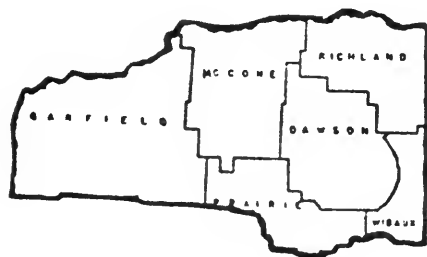
Unemployed workers numbered 1,000 for the month. The majority of these workers were last employed in either structural or clerical and sales work.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Job opportunities have become more plentiful in the Glasgow area during 1977, as is evidenced by the figures shown above. Approximately 75 workers have been employed for work on a natural gas pipeline being constructed in Phillips County. Work began in early August and is expected to continue till mid-November, then re-open next spring. Further job opportunities have been created by the construction industry which is going strong on a new office building, a bank facility, a senior citizens home in Glasgow and a control building at Fort Peck.

The temporary labor shortage expected when college and high school students return to school has been all but cancelled out by the entrance of farmers into the labor market who are seeking part time and full time work to supplement deflated farm income. New business openings in the area remain slightly ahead of last year's figures while new car registrations remain 37.5% below last year's registrations.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The seasonal increase in the civilian labor force continued. In August 600 additional workers became available for employment and 700 workers found employment. This brought the monthly civilian labor force and employment figures to 16,300 and 15,800 respectively. The net increase of 100 employed workers resulted in a 1.2% point decrease in the unemployment rate, now at 2.8%

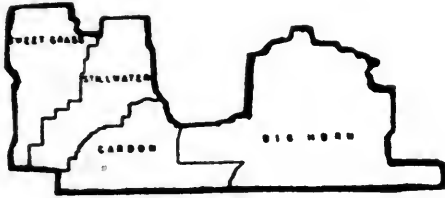
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business openings total 115, an increase of 69% over last year's total of 68. Businessmen in the area are experiencing a temporary labor shortage due to the increase in new business establishments and the decrease in potential labor force workers as college and high school students return to school.

Rain has dampened activity in both the agricultural and construction sectors, although work continues when weather permits. Farmers are in the process of seeding winter wheat and harvesting the third cutting of hay. Construction work continues on the interstate east of Glendive, several new homes in the Glendive area, and a new restaurant in Sidney.

During the month a mobile employment and training unit has been in Sidney to assist the unemployed in finding work. This unit is federally funded through CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) and is designed to teach students job finding and job retention skills.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

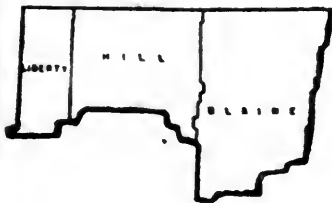
The influx of new workers continued this month in the Hardin-Red Lodge area, with the civilian labor force rising by 500 during August, to 14,000 workers. Along with the increased number of available workers was an increase in job opportunities. This is evidenced by August employment figures, which rose from 12,800 in July to 13,400 this month, a net increase of 600 employed workers. The increased employment in the area contributed to a drop of .4% points in the unemployment rate, to a present figure of 4.6%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Eight new businesses were opened in the Hardin-Red Lodge area during August, bringing the yearly total to 74 new openings as compared with 66 in 1976. Seven of the eight businesses opened in Big Horn County.

New car registrations for August totalled 35, slightly above last month's figure of 22. However, this year's cumulative total still lags behind last year's total by 100. An added stimulus to the labor market economy was the annual week-long festival of nations in Red Lodge during the first week of August. The activities encouraged tourism and certainly boosted business sales.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate dropped during August to 4.2% from the 5.2% rate recorded in July. Employment increased 500 to a present figure of 14,100 while unemployment decreased to a present figure of 600. Four hundred new workers entered the labor force, bringing the total civilian labor force in the region to 14,700, and limiting the effect of the rise in employment.

The majority of unemployed females were last working in service occupations; the majority of unemployed males were last employed in structural work.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Limited exploration drilling has begun in the Havre labor market area, resulting in a few new hires. Many construction projects continued; however, overall activity has decreased. In the agricultural sector, harvesting is virtually complete with winter wheat seeding and summer fallowing the areas of present concentration.

New business openings remain well ahead of 1976 figures, with a total of 114 new openings for the first eight months of 1977 as compared with 80 new openings for the first eight months of 1976.

New car registrations for the year total 420. This figure is 28.6% below last year's cumulative August figure of 588.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Employment in the Helena labor market area continued its upward trend, characterized by an increase of 300 in the month of August. The total now stands at 25,600, an increase of 2,100 over the same period a year ago or 8.9%. At the same time, the unemployment rate dropped from 5.9% in July to 5.1% in August. This figure is one percentage point below August a year ago.

Unemployment claims in the area were concentrated in the construction and lumber and wood products industries for males and service industries for females, reflecting no drastic change from previous months.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The economic situation in the Helena labor market area remains fairly positive. There were 42 new business registrations for the month of August, bringing the total for the year to 262. This is 115 more than at the same time last year.

Construction continues as the most significant economic activity with several on-going projects. They include: the new airport terminal, the federal building, liquor warehouse, a grocery store, and four new restaurants. The national franchise restaurant scheduled to open in mid-September has been rescheduled for October 3 and will employ approximately 70 people.

The Helena Job Service office states there is a need for clerical help and openings for motel-hotel maids but supply is meeting demand in most other sectors.

KALISPELL LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The employment picture in the Kalispell labor market area has shown good development during the past month. The civilian labor force was enlarged by 500, and is currently at a level of 34,900 persons. With 32,200 people at work during August, employment showed an increase of 2.9% over last month, while the number of unemployed dropped from 3,000 to 2,700 during the same period. The consequence of these changes was a 1.3% drop in the unemployment rate, which now stands at 7.6%.

Unemployment claims for the month were filed predominantly by workers in construction, retail trade and the lumber industry. Although claims were up and down on a week-to-week basis they showed a general increase for the month in the Kalispell labor area.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

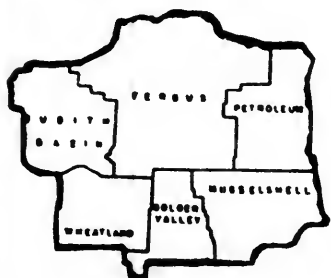
The economy of the region has begun to show a seasonal change in recent weeks. Tourism has declined to a great extent with the onset of cooler weather and the beginning of the fall school term. In turn, this has slowed down business in the service sectors of industry, and local Job Service offices have reported some reductions in the staffs of these types of enterprises. State and National parks have also started their seasonal layoffs with the closing of the tourist season rapidly approaching.

The lumber and wood products industry has continued to be hampered by an overabundance of inventory logs this month. Many sawmills are still operating at good capacity, but logging in the woods has been curtailed in some instances and layoffs may be experienced. This condition is expected to be temporary, however, and should end as the mills reduce their inventories.

Construction has progressed well in all areas and employment levels have been maintained. There have been no major projects started recently, however, and as the ongoing jobs are completed some reduction in workers is expected to occur.

LEWISTOWN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



Consistent with past months this year, the Lewistown area labor force increased again in August. The level now stands at 12,600, an increase of 400 persons over July's figure. The employment situation also improved in the last month, advancing from 11,700 workers in July to 12,200 in August. This increase of 500 resulted in a one percent drop in the rate of unemployment during the month. That rate has now been lowered to a very respectable 3.5% in the labor market area.

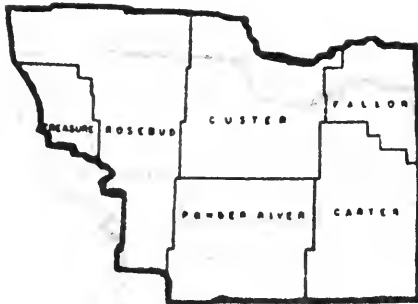
Activity levels in unemployment claims varied slightly during August. Reports from the local Job Service office indicated a drop in claims caused by the return of many school employees to their jobs. This drop was offset in the latter part of the month by increased claims filed by workers laid off some construction projects in the area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The outlook for the Lewistown LMA economy appears to be one of continued strength and activity. The low unemployment rate is one indication that the area economy is functioning well. Another positive indicator is the establishment of 79 new business firms to date this year. That number is almost double the 41 firms which were formed during the same period last year.

Construction projects which were started during the last few months are accounting for most of the building activity in the area. The new hospital, which has been a major construction project for many months, is nearing completion, with interior work being done at the present time. Though few, if any, new projects have begun recently, this ongoing work has maintained stable employment and income levels in the construction industry.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Miles City labor area took another jump in August, increasing by 700 individuals to 17,000. This reflects an 1,100 increase over individuals August of a year ago or 6.9%. Employment has also increased and now stands at a total of 16,400, 800 more than in July and 1,200 more than a year ago. The unemployment rate July slipped from 4.5% in July to 3.5% in August, well below the 4.2% rate recorded in August of 1976. It, well below

The construction and service industries again contributed the largest number of unemployment claims with 56% of the male unemployment claims coming from the construction industry.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The area economy still has some bright spots although much of the activity will begin to taper off. On the positive side, there were 39 building permits issued in Miles City for the month of August. New business establishments slipped well below August of 1976 but the year-to-date total is keeping pace with last year.

Most construction projects are continuing on schedule as planned. The Ashland sawmill is scheduled to reopen September 15 and could possibly provide employment for 40 to 50 later on. The sugar beet crop appears to be good despite the poor spring weather.

MISSOULA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Missoula labor area showed a gain of 400 persons in August for a total of 48,500 individuals. That figure reflects an increase of 3,200 over August of 1976 or 7.1%. At the same time, employment figures rose 3,900 from August 1976 to August of this year for a 9.4% increase. These all helped to force the unemployment rate to 6.6% for August of this year, down from 7.8% in July and 8.7% in August 1976.

Unemployment claims characteristics were seasonally normal for this area of the state in August. Male claimants were concentrated in the lumber and wood products as well as construction industries while female claimants were noted primarily in the service industry.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations took another jump in the Missoula labor area in August with 82 new firms registered. This brings the total for the year to 520, almost 60% ahead of the same period a year ago. Also, 131 building permits were issued in Missoula indicating that construction activity is displaying very few signs of a downturn at the present time.

MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

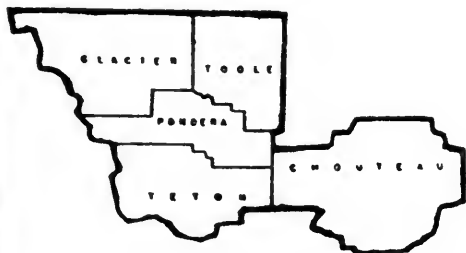
Several noteworthy projects have been announced in the Hamilton area. a mobile log home manufacturing plant seven miles south of Hamilton has initiated operations and expects to employ between 25 and 30 people. A new plastics factory is relocating in the area and will employ about 20 people. Construction on a 60-unit low income housing project has begun. Hamilton has received a \$1.5 million grant for street, sewer and curb construction and a \$500,000 EDA grant for a new judicial wing to complete the county courthouse.

A 15 week old labor dispute involving the Machinists and Aerospace workers and local auto dealers was settled in Missoula and most workers involved have returned to work. Approximately 12 idled meat processors have been recalled to their jobs at a local plant.

In the agricultural sector, the apple and potato harvest has begun in the Hamilton area and the demand for workers has been good.

SHELBY LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The civilian labor force rose by 700 workers, bringing August's total labor force to 20,600. Of this number, 19,600 were reported as employed, while 1000 remained jobless. The unemployment rate fell 1.0% points to a figure of 4.8% for August.

The majority of unemployed females were last working in the professional, technical and managerial fields. The majority of unemployed males were last employed in structural work.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Several new construction projects are expected to begin in the Shelby labor market area, including a church in Fairfield, a retail auto sales building in Conrad, and a shopping center in Cut Bank. Other projects are continuing, as the weather has remained favorable.

Harvest is approximately 90% complete according to the Montana Crop and Livestock reporting service, and should be finished by early October.

New business openings for the year to date total 140, 53 ahead of last year's figure of 87 for the comparable period.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 1977

<u>Program</u>	<u>New Enrollees</u>	<u>Job Placements</u>	<u>End of Month Enrollment</u>
WIN	268	107	2,180
CETA-CEP	104	53	257
CETA-INST.	118	80	550
CETA-OJT	73	59	234
JOB CORPS	70	41	325
PSE TITLE II	47	26	288
PSE TITLE VI	155	96	881
PSE TITLE VI "A"	198	41	559

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.^{1/} (1967 = 100)

Percent Change From:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Aug. 1977</u>	<u>July 1977</u>	<u>Aug. 1976</u>
All Items	183.3	.4%	6.7%

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED^{2/} AUGUST 1977

<u>Social Characteristics</u>	<u>Percent of Total Covered Unemployment</u>
Non-White	6.9%
Female	45.7%
Youth	7.3%
Over 45	24.3%

^{1/} The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

Table I
MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1975								
January	308.7	279.8	253.0	26.8	28.9	9.4	9.0	*
February	309.6	278.2	250.8	27.4	31.4	10.2	9.1	.1
March	316.6	287.3	257.1	30.2	29.3	9.2	9.1	.3
April	320.3	292.3	259.4	32.9	28.0	8.7	8.6	.2
May	327.9	304.3	267.3	37.0	23.6	7.2	8.3	.1
June	349.1	319.7	278.9	40.8	29.4	8.4	9.1	.1
July	346.9	321.3	279.1	42.2	25.6	7.4	8.7	.2
August	350.9	327.9	280.7	47.2	23.0	6.6	8.2	*
September	340.2	317.7	279.3	38.4	22.5	6.6	8.1	.3
October	332.6	308.4	274.4	34.0	24.2	7.3	7.8	.3
November	332.4	305.8	274.3	31.5	26.6	8.0	7.8	.2
December	330.7	300.6	271.4	29.2	30.1	9.1	7.8	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	316.8	284.0	263.1	20.9	32.8	10.4	8.8	*
February	317.8	287.0	263.9	23.1	30.8	9.7	8.7	*
March	325.7	295.1	267.0	28.1	30.6	9.4	8.1	*
April	333.4	307.8	272.8	35.0	25.6	7.7	7.4	*
May	336.4	314.0	277.7	36.3	22.4	6.6	6.7	*
June	353.9	325.2	283.5	41.7	28.7	8.1	8.0	.1
July	359.4	333.0	288.1	44.9	26.4	7.3	7.8	.1
August	361.2	336.0	287.6	48.4	25.2	7.0	7.6	.1
September	346.8	325.2	287.2	38.0	21.6	6.2	7.4	.1
October	337.2	316.3	283.8	32.5	20.9	6.2	7.2	.1
November	334.0	310.8	282.6	28.2	23.2	7.0	7.4	.1
December	329.6	305.0	280.6	24.4	24.6	7.5	7.4	.1
1976 Avg.	337.7	311.6	278.2	33.4	26.1	7.7	7.7	.1
1977								
January	330.9	299.0	276.4	22.6	31.9	9.7	8.3	.1
February	332.2	302.9	278.1	24.8	29.4	8.8	8.5	.1
March	338.2	311.2	281.3	29.9	27.0	8.0	7.9	.1
April	345.7	322.0	285.0	37.0	23.7	6.9	6.9	.1
May	349.3	329.4	291.2	38.2	19.9	5.7	6.4	.1
June	365.7	342.9	299.4	43.5	22.8	6.2	7.5	.2
July	376.1	352.3	305.8	46.5	23.8	6.3	7.0	3.3
August	373.7	354.4	304.6	49.8	19.3	5.2	6.8	.1
September	363.2	344.1	305.3	38.8	19.1	5.3		.1
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	31.1	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.6	8.3	9.4	*
February	31.2	28.2	27.1	1.1	3.0	9.7	10.2	*
March	31.8	29.0	27.8	1.2	2.8	8.7	9.2	.1
April	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	8.3	8.7	.1
May	32.7	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.4	7.3	7.2	*
June	33.7	30.9	29.3	1.6	2.8	8.4	8.4	*
July	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	8.1	7.4	*
August	33.7	31.2	29.3	1.9	2.5	7.4	6.6	*
September	33.3	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.4	7.3	6.6	*
October	33.0	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.7	8.1	7.3	*
November	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	7.9	8.0	*
December	33.0	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.8	8.5	9.1	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
1976								
January	30.6	27.5	26.7	.8	3.1	10.2	10.4	*
February	30.7	27.8	26.9	.9	2.9	9.5	9.7	*
March	31.3	28.3	27.2	1.1	3.0	9.6	9.4	*
April	31.5	29.0	27.6	1.4	2.5	8.0	7.7	*
May	31.9	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.3	7.2	6.6	*
June	33.7	30.5	28.9	1.6	3.2	9.5	8.1	*
July	33.4	30.6	28.8	1.8	2.8	8.5	7.3	*
August	33.0	30.4	28.5	1.9	2.6	7.9	7.0	*
September	32.3	30.2	28.7	1.5	2.1	6.6	6.2	*
October	32.4	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.2	6.7	6.2	*
November	32.1	29.9	28.8	1.1	2.2	7.0	7.0	*
December	32.2	30.0	29.0	1.0	2.2	6.8	7.5	*
1976 Avg.	32.1	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.6	8.1	7.7	*
1977								
January	32.2	29.2	28.3	.9	3.0	9.2	9.7	*
February	31.8	29.3	28.3	1.0	2.5	7.8	8.8	*
March	32.4	30.0	28.8	1.2	2.4	7.3	8.0	*
April	32.5	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.0	6.2	6.9	*
May	32.9	31.0	29.5	1.5	1.9	5.6	5.7	*
June	34.2	32.0	30.3	1.7	2.2	6.4	6.2	*
July	34.2	32.0	30.2	1.8	2.2	6.5	6.3	.8
August	33.5	31.6	29.6	2.0	1.9	5.6	5.2	*
September	33.5	31.4	29.9	1.5	2.1	6.3	5.3	*
October								
November								
December								

Avg.

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table III
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	45.4	42.0	40.8	1.2	3.4	7.6	9.4	*
February	45.1	41.5	40.2	1.3	3.6	8.0	10.2	*
March	45.6	42.0	40.6	1.4	3.6	7.9	9.2	.1
April	46.8	43.4	41.9	1.5	3.4	7.3	8.7	*
May	47.1	44.5	42.8	1.7	2.6	5.6	7.2	*
June	49.0	45.6	43.7	1.9	3.4	7.0	8.4	*
July	49.5	46.3	44.4	1.9	3.2	6.5	7.4	*
August	49.2	46.1	43.9	2.2	3.1	6.2	6.6	*
September	48.5	45.6	43.8	1.8	2.9	5.9	6.6	.2
October	48.4	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.8	5.8	7.3	.2
November	49.2	46.4	45.0	1.4	2.8	5.8	8.0	*
December	48.6	45.4	44.1	1.3	3.2	6.5	9.1	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	45.2	41.5	40.5	1.0	3.7	8.2	10.4	*
February	45.2	42.0	40.9	1.1	3.2	7.2	9.7	*
March	46.1	42.7	41.4	1.3	3.4	7.4	9.4	*
April	47.1	44.3	42.7	1.6	2.8	6.0	7.7	*
May	48.2	45.9	44.2	1.7	2.3	4.8	6.6	*
June	49.4	46.0	44.1	1.9	3.4	7.0	8.1	*
July	49.5	46.4	44.3	2.1	3.1	6.3	7.3	*
August	49.0	46.2	44.0	2.2	2.8	5.8	7.0	*
September	48.9	46.5	44.8	1.7	2.4	4.9	6.2	*
October	49.7	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.2	*
November	50.3	47.8	46.5	1.3	2.5	4.9	7.0	*
December	50.3	47.5	46.4	1.1	2.8	5.6	7.5	*
1976 Avg.	48.2	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.9	6.0	7.7	*
1977								
January	50.0	46.2	45.2	1.0	3.8	7.6	9.7	*
February	50.2	46.8	45.7	1.1	3.4	6.7	8.8	*
March	50.5	47.5	46.1	1.4	3.0	6.0	8.0	*
April	50.4	47.8	46.1	1.7	2.6	5.1	6.9	*
May	50.4	48.1	46.3	1.8	2.3	4.5	5.7	*
June	51.9	49.5	47.5	2.0	2.4	4.6	6.2	*
July	52.3	49.7	47.6	2.1	2.6	5.0	6.3	.6
August	51.3	49.3	47.0	2.3	2.0	3.9	5.2	.6
September	52.0	49.8	48.0	1.8	2.2	4.2	5.3	.1
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table IV
MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

AUGUST 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Aug. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month	
				from: July 1977	Aug. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	373.7	376.1	361.2	-2.4	12.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	354.4	352.3	336.0	2.1	18.4
Persons Employed in Agriculture	49.8	46.5	48.4	3.3	1.4
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	19.3	23.8	25.2	-4.5	-5.9
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	5.2	6.3	7.0	-1.1	-1.8
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/}	6.5	6.9	8.5	-.4	-2.0
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	271.3	269.0	256.9	2.3	14.4
MANUFACTURING	24.4	24.3	24.9	.1	-.5
Durable Goods	15.7	15.7	16.0	0	-.3
24 Lumber and Wood Products	9.4	10.5	9.8	-1.1	-.4
33 Primary Metal Industries	3.4	2.3	3.4	1.1	0
Other Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	.1
Nondurable Goods	8.7	8.6	8.9	.1	-.2
20 Food and Kindred Products	3.9	3.8	4.0	.1	-.1
27 Printing and Publishing	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	-.1
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	-.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	.1
MINING	5.9	4.5	5.8	1.4	.1
10 Metal Mining	2.1	.7	2.4	1.4	-.3
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	-.1
15 Oil and Gas Extraction	2.4	2.4	1.9	0	.5

<u>CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION:</u>				
15 General Building Contractors	16.4	15.7	16.2	.7
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	5.3	5.3	5.7	- .4
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.1	4.9	4.7	.2
	6.0	5.5	5.8	.5
<u>TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES</u>				
40 Railroad Transportation	20.4	20.4	19.8	0
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.4	6.4	6.3	0
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services ..	5.8	5.8	5.9	0
	8.2	8.2	7.6	0
<u>WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE</u>				
Wholesale Trade	69.8	69.5	66.5	.3
Retail Trade	16.8	16.9	15.3	- .1
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories ..	53.0	52.6	51.2	.4
54 Food Stores	8.2	8.4	7.5	- .2
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	6.9	6.8	6.8	.1
58 Eating and Drinking Places	8.2	8.2	8.9	0
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc. ..	20.9	20.3	19.0	.6
	8.8	8.9	9.0	- .1
<u>FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE</u>				
	11.6	11.5	10.7	.1
<u>SERVICES</u>				
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	52.2	52.6	49.7	- .4
72 Personal Services	8.3	8.3	7.8	0
50 Medical and other Health Services	2.5	2.5	2.4	0
Other Services	16.0	16.3	15.2	- .3
	25.4	25.5	24.3	- .1
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>				
91 Federal Government	70.6	70.5	63.3	.1
92 State Colleges and Universities	15.5	15.5	14.7	0
93 Other State Government	8.3	8.4	8.9	- .1
93 Local Education	11.8	11.7	10.3	.1
93 Other Local Government	20.3	20.3	19.0	0
	14.7	14.6	10.4	.1

- 1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1971 Benchmarks.
- 2/ Computations from whole (unrounded) numbers. Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

Table V
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

AUGUST 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	Aug. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1976	July 1977	Aug. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	33.5	34.2	33.0	-.7	.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	31.6	32.0	30.4	-.4	1.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	2.0	1.8	1.9	.2	.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.9	2.2	2.6	-.3	-.7
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	5.6	6.5	7.9	-.9	-2.3
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	6.3	6.5	8.7	-.2	-2.4
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (<i>Establishment Data</i>)	28.2	27.9	26.3	.3	1.9
Manufacturing	1.3	1.2	1.6	.1	-.3
Contract Construction	1.9	1.8	2.0	.1	-.1
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Trade	8.6	8.6	8.2	0	.4
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.4	2.3	-.2	-.1
Retail Trade	6.4	6.2	5.9	.2	.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	.1
Services and Mining	6.9	6.9	5.3	0	1.6
Government	5.9	5.8	5.7	.1	.2
Federal Government	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	.1
State and Local Government	3.7	3.6	3.6	.1	.1

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and other relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 benchmarks.

Table VI
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

AUGUST 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Aug. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from:	
				July 1977	Aug. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	51.3	52.3	49.0	-1.0	2.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	49.3	49.7	46.2	-.4	3.1
Persons Employed in Agriculture	2.3	2.1	2.2	.2	.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.0	2.6	2.8	-.6	-.8
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	3.9	5.0	5.8	-1.1	-1.9
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	4.3	4.8	6.3	-.5	-2.0
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS					
(Establishment Data)	42.4	42.4	39.2	0	3.2
Manufacturing	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Contract Construction	2.7	2.4	2.4	.3	.3
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	.1
Trade	14.8	14.6	13.6	.2	1.2
Wholesale Trade	5.5	5.2	4.8	.3	.7
Retail Trade	9.3	9.4	8.8	-.1	.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	.1
Services and Mining	7.9	8.0	7.7	-.1	.2
Government	8.2	8.6	6.9	-.4	1.3
Federal Government	2.0	2.0	1.8	0	.2
State and Local Government	6.2	6.6	5.1	-.4	1.1

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	June 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1977	June 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1977	June 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1977	June 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1977
STATEWIDE	365.7	376.1	373.7	342.9	352.3	354.4	22.8	23.8	19.3	6.2	6.3	5.2
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.2	34.2	33.5	32.0	32.0	31.6	2.2	2.2	1.9	6.4	6.5	5.6
BILLINGS SMSA	51.9	52.3	51.3	49.5	49.7	49.3	2.4	2.6	2.0	4.6	5.0	3.9
24 BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	279.6	289.6	288.9	261.4	270.6	273.5	18.2	19.0	15.4	6.5	6.6	5.3
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.7	39.4	37.0	32.5	36.0	34.5	3.2	3.4	2.5	9.1	8.7	6.8
BOZEMAN	25.2	25.6	26.4	24.0	24.3	25.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	4.7	5.1	3.6
GLASGOW	18.7	19.3	19.9	17.5	18.0	18.9	1.2	1.3	1.0	6.2	6.6	5.0
GLENDIVE	15.2	15.7	16.3	14.6	15.1	15.8	.6	.6	.5	3.7	4.0	2.8
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.0	13.5	14.0	12.4	12.8	13.4	.6	.7	.6	4.4	5.0	4.6
HAVRE	13.8	14.3	14.7	13.0	13.6	14.1	.8	.7	.6	5.6	5.2	4.2
HELENA	26.4	26.9	27.0	24.9	25.3	25.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	5.7	5.9	5.1
KALISPELL	33.4	34.4	34.9	30.3	31.3	32.2	3.1	3.0	2.7	9.3	8.9	7.6
LEWISTOWN	11.7	12.2	12.6	11.0	11.7	12.2	.7	.5	.4	5.7	4.5	3.5
MILES CITY	15.8	16.3	17.0	15.1	15.6	16.4	.7	.7	.6	4.4	4.5	3.5
MISSOULA	46.3	48.1	48.5	42.8	44.4	45.3	3.5	3.7	3.2	7.7	7.8	6.6
SHELBY-CUT BANK	19.3	19.9	20.6	18.2	18.8	19.6	1.1	1.1	1.0	5.8	5.8	4.8

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
 2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Areas.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1976	Percent Change 1976- 1977	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1976	Percent Change 1976- 1977	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1976	Net Change 1976- 1977	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1976	Net Change 1976- 1977
STATEWIDE	373.7	361.2	3.5	354.4	336.0	5.5	19.3	25.2	-5.9	5.2	7.0	-1.8
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.5	33.0	1.5	31.6	30.4	3.9	1.9	2.6	-.7	5.6	7.9	-2.3
BILLINGS SMSA	51.3	49.0	4.7	49.3	46.2	6.7	2.0	2.8	-.8	3.9	5.8	-1.9
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	288.9	279.2	3.5	273.5	259.4	5.4	15.4	19.8	-4.4	5.3	7.1	-1.8
ANACONDA-BUTTE	37.0	38.1	-2.9	34.5	34.2	.9	2.5	3.9	-1.4	6.8	10.2	-3.4
BOZEMAN	26.4	26.9	-1.9	25.4	25.4	0	1.0	1.5	-.5	3.6	5.6	-2.0
GLASGOW	19.9	18.6	7.0	18.9	17.7	6.8	1.0	.9	.1	5.0	5.0	0
GLENDIVE	16.3	15.4	5.8	15.8	14.9	6.0	.5	.5	0	2.8	3.4	-.6
HARDIN-RED LODGE	14.0	13.0	7.7	13.4	12.3	8.9	.6	.7	-.1	4.6	5.3	-.7
HAVRE	14.7	13.6	8.1	14.1	12.9	9.3	.6	.7	-.1	4.2	5.5	-1.3
HELENA	27.0	25.0	8.0	25.6	23.5	8.9	1.4	1.5	-.1	5.1	6.1	-1.0
KALISPELL	34.9	35.3	-1.1	32.2	31.8	1.3	2.7	3.5	-.8	7.6	10.0	-2.4
LEWISTOWN	12.6	12.3	2.4	12.2	11.7	4.3	.4	.6	-.2	3.5	4.9	-1.4
MILES CITY	17.0	15.9	6.9	16.4	15.2	7.9	.6	.7	-.1	3.5	4.2	-.7
MISSOULA	48.5	45.3	7.1	45.3	41.4	9.4	3.2	3.9	-.7	6.6	8.7	-2.1
SHELBY-CUT BANK	20.6	19.5	5.6	19.6	18.4	6.5	1.0	1.1	-.1	4.8	5.9	-1.1

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE IX

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY

AUGUST 1977

COUNTY STATEWIDE	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 373668	EMPLOYMENT 354365	UNEMPLOYMENT 19303	PERCENT RATE 5.2
CASCADE	33442	31564	1878	5.6
YELLOWSTONE	51241	49334	2007	3.9
BEAVERHEAD	4978	4854	124	2.5
BIG HORN	5188	4870	318	6.1
BLAINE	3554	3372	182	5.1
BROADWATER	1635	1560	75	4.6
CARBON	4087	3903	182	4.5
CARTER	1207	1184	23	1.9
CHOTEAU	3962	3844	118	3.0
CUSTER	6193	5957	236	3.8
DANIELS	1744	1707	37	2.1
DAWSON	5678	5467	211	3.7
DEER LODGE	6625	6103	522	7.9
FALLON	2353	2306	47	2.0
FERGUS	6330	6138	192	3.0
FLATHEAD	20246	18740	1506	7.4
GALLATIN	19452	18755	697	3.6
GARFIELD	1079	1062	17	1.6
GLACIER	6231	5777	454	7.3
GOLDEN VALLEY	590	557	33	5.6
GRANITE	1224	1153	71	5.8
HILL	9715	9302	413	4.3
JEFFERSON	2816	2617	199	7.1
JUDITH BASIN	1624	1579	45	2.8
LAKE	7844	7370	474	6.0
LEWIS AND CLARK	22581	21474	1107	4.9
LIBERTY	1431	1402	29	2.0
LINCOLN	6773	6091	682	10.1
MC CONE	1844	1798	46	2.5
MADISON	3100	2983	117	3.8
MEACHER	1033	992	41	4.0
MINERAL	1646	1524	122	7.4
MISSOULA	34541	32377	2164	6.3
MUSSELSHELL	2115	1968	149	7.0
PARK	5699	5683	16	3.7
PETROLEUM	444	438	6	1.4
PHILLIPS	3190	3060	130	4.1
PONDERA	4114	3909	205	5.0
POWDER RIVER	1429	1395	34	2.4
POWELL	3361	3125	236	7.0
PRAIRIE	1205	1169	36	3.0
RAVALLI	7523	6903	620	8.2
RICHLAND	5640	5496	144	2.6
ROOSEVELT	6544	6242	302	4.6
ROSEBUD	5171	4938	233	4.5
SANDERS	4825	4537	288	6.0
SHERIDAN	2923	2855	68	2.3
SILVER BOW	17761	16292	1469	8.4
STILLWATER	2815	2716	99	3.5
SWEET GRASS	1916	1871	45	2.3
TETON	3127	3019	108	3.5
TODD	3160	3056	104	3.3
TREASURE	615	594	21	3.4
VALLEY	5487	5036	451	8.2
WHEATLAND	1542	1523	19	1.2
WIBAUT	815	797	18	2.2

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

AUGUST 1977

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT				TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
	Aug. 1/ 1977 ^{1/}	July 1977	Aug. 1976	Net Change to Current Month From:	1977		1977	
					July	Aug.	Total	Percent Women
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	109.5	109.2	103.0	.3	6.5	271.3	40.4	269.0 40.6
Manufacturing	2.9	3.0	3.3	-.1	-.4	24.4	11.9	24.3 12.3
Mining .....	.3	.3	.3	0	0	5.9	5.1	4.5 6.7
Contract Construction	1.3	1.1	1.1	.2	.2	16.4	7.9	15.7 7.0
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	.2	20.4	19.1	20.4 19.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.2	30.2	28.3	0	1.9	69.8	43.3	69.5 43.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.3	7.2	7.0	.1	.3	11.6	62.9	11.5 62.6
Services	32.6	32.6	30.5	0	2.1	52.2	62.5	52.6 62.0
Government ^{2/}	31.0	30.9	28.8	.1	2.2	70.6	43.9	70.5 43.8

1/ Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmark.

Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Establishment Series began January 1974.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1976

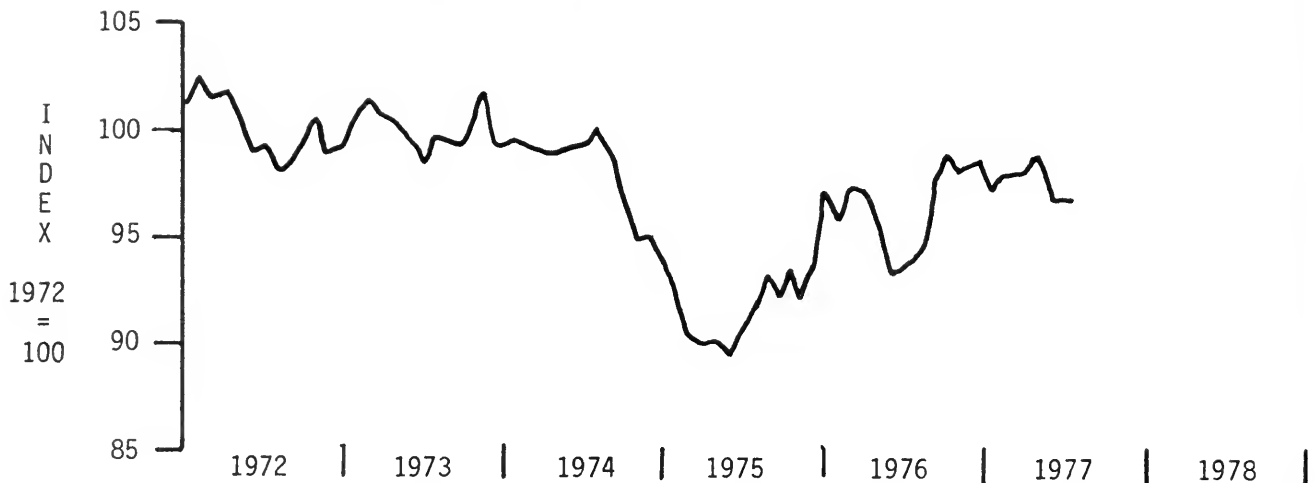
	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sep.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Ann. Ava.</u>
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	95.3	95.3	96.4	98.5	100.1	101.3	102.1	103.0	103.6	103.6	104.1	104.1	100.7
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0
Mining .....	.3	.3	1.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction .....	.8	.8	.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	.8	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.5	23.2	24.0	25.4	26.4	27.1	28.4	28.3	28.5	27.4	27.5	27.7	26.4
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
Services	27.7	27.9	28.1	28.5	28.7	29.6	30.0	30.5	30.4	30.1	30.2	30.1	29.3
Government ^{1/}	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.3	29.1	28.8	29.4	31.1	31.6	31.8	30.4

1977

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	109.5					
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9					
Mining .....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3					
Contract Construction .....	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3					
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9					
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2					
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3					
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6					
Government ^{1/}	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	31.0					

^{1/} Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Revised to 1976 Benchmark.
 Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

1976

January	97.2
February	95.7
March	97.6
April	96.9
May	95.0
June	93.3
July	93.9
August	94.8
September	98.1
October	99.3
November	98.3
December	98.8

1977

January	97.2
February	98.3
March	98.3
April	99.2
May	97.3
June	97.6
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

The Composite Index displayed a slight improvement in June. However, without support from construction activity the index would have continued to fall. From May to June Average Weekly Initial Claims increased 15.8%, while Manufacturing Employment dropped off by 600. The stabilizing component was, of course, Building Permits. On a seasonally adjusted basis they rose 27.7% during the period.

Preliminary data for July assure a decrease in the index. No positive movements have been noted in any of the components.

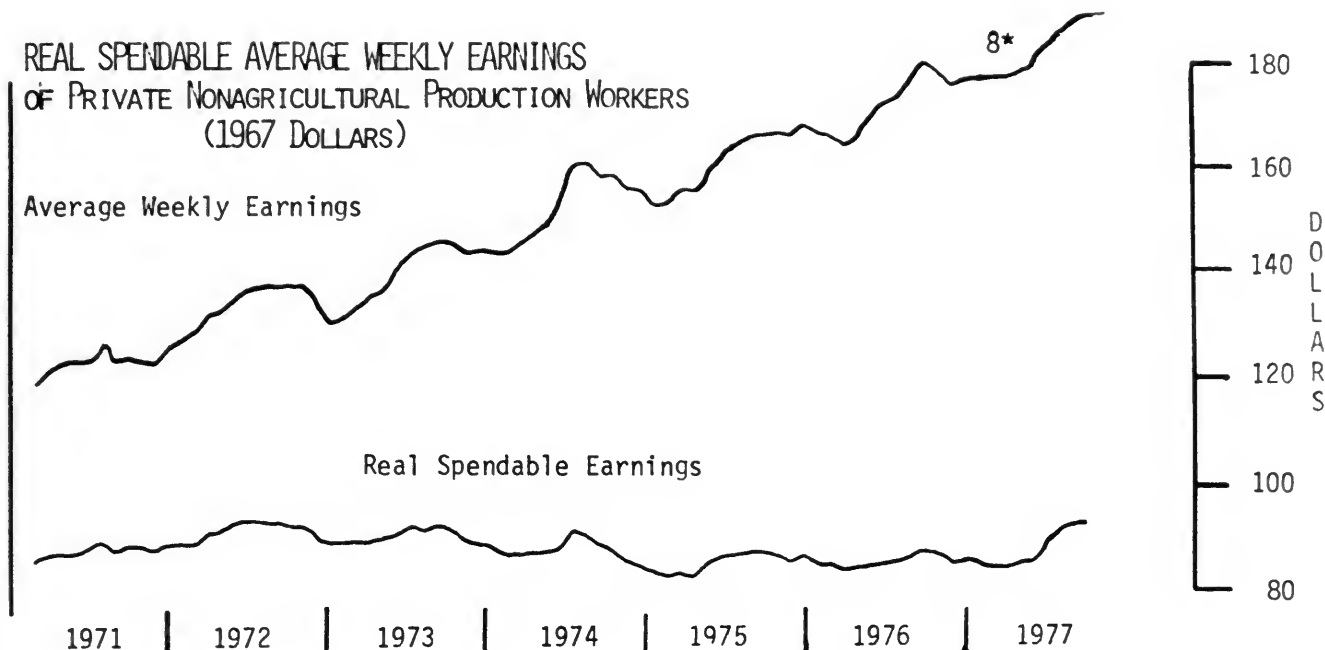
* Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.

REAL SPENDABLE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
OF PRIVATE NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS
(1967 DOLLARS)

Average Weekly Earnings

Real Spendable Earnings



	<u>Aug. 1977</u>	<u>July 1977</u>	<u>Aug. 1976</u>
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	\$191.35	\$190.97	\$175.69
Taxes Withheld	27.38	27.29	26.54
Spendable Earnings	163.97	163.67	149.15
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	74.53	74.04	62.38
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	89.44	89.63	86.77

	<u>Average Weekly Earnings^{1/}</u>	<u>Real Spendable Earnings^{2/}</u>
<u>1976</u>		
July	172.67	85.92
Aug.	175.69	86.77
Sep.	178.92	87.72
Oct.	177.79	86.90
Nov.	175.02	85.54
Dec.	175.78	85.62
<u>1977</u>		
Jan.	175.94	85.17
Feb.	176.00	84.35
Mar.	174.94	83.40
Apr.	178.69	84.21
May	184.79	86.12
June	185.26	87.77
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	191.35p	89.44p
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

The preliminary data for August place Real Spendable Earnings at \$89.44. The final figure is expected to be over \$90.00 as data from some larger firms have not been received. Increases are also expected in both September and October, peak seasonal months for average wage increases.

* Indicates last month of plotted data.

p: Preliminary.

^{1/} Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

^{2/} Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

TABLE XII

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

(In Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute ^{1/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1975								
January	327.0	303.9	265.6	38.3	23.1	7.1	8.2	*
February	328.0	300.9	263.3	37.6	27.1	8.2	8.2	.1
March	326.8	301.0	265.9	35.1	25.8	7.9	8.7	.3
April	323.8	296.1	263.3	32.8	27.7	7.9	8.9	.2
May	326.8	300.0	266.1	33.9	26.8	7.9	9.2	.1
June	327.4	300.2	268.0	32.2	27.2	8.3	8.6	.1
July	326.8	300.5	268.6	31.9	26.3	8.1	8.4	.2
August	330.0	303.4	270.9	32.5	26.6	8.0	8.4	*
September	332.4	305.6	272.5	33.1	26.8	8.1	8.3	.3
October	335.3	307.3	272.6	34.7	28.0	8.4	8.6	.3
November	340.2	312.6	276.0	36.6	27.6	8.1	8.3	.2
December	340.8	311.2	272.6	38.6	29.6	8.7	8.3	.2
1975 Avg.	330.4	303.5	268.7	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	335.4	308.3	275.8	32.5	27.1	8.1	7.8	*
February	336.6	310.1	276.7	33.4	26.5	7.9	7.6	*
March	336.0	308.9	275.9	33.0	27.1	8.1	7.5	*
April	337.2	311.9	276.8	35.1	25.3	7.5	7.5	*
May	335.5	309.9	276.8	33.1	25.6	7.6	7.3	*
June	332.0	305.7	272.6	33.1	26.3	7.9	7.5	.1
July	339.0	312.0	277.5	34.5	27.0	8.0	7.8	.1
August	340.5	311.6	277.9	33.7	28.9	8.5	7.9	.1
September	339.1	313.1	280.3	32.8	26.0	7.7	7.8	.1
October	339.6	314.8	281.8	33.0	24.8	7.3	7.9	.1
November	341.5	317.4	284.3	33.1	24.1	7.1	8.1	.1
December	339.4	315.2	281.5	33.7	24.2	7.1	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	337.7	311.6	278.2	33.4	26.1	7.7	7.7	.1
1977								
January	349.6	323.4	289.2	34.2	26.2	7.5	7.3	.1
February	351.2	326.1	291.0	35.1	25.1	7.1	7.5	.1
March	348.7	325.1	290.2	34.9	23.6	6.8	7.3	.1
April	349.5	326.2	288.9	37.3	23.3	6.7	7.0	.1
May	348.5	325.3	290.4	34.9	23.2	6.7	6.9	.1
June	343.7	323.4	288.4	35.0	20.3	5.9	7.1	.2
July	355.6	331.2	295.0	36.2	24.4	6.9	6.9	3.3
August	353.0	330.0	294.8	35.2	23.0	6.5	7.1	.1
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

TABLE XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	32.6	30.4	28.9	1.5	2.2	6.6	7.1	*
February	32.6	29.9	28.4	1.5	2.7	8.4	8.2	*
March	32.6	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.6	7.8	7.9	.1
April	32.6	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.8	8.7	7.9	.1
May	32.4	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.6	7.9	7.9	*
June	32.1	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.4	7.5	8.3	*
July	32.3	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.6	8.1	8.1	*
August	32.6	30.0	28.7	1.3	2.6	8.0	8.0	*
September	32.8	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.7	8.3	8.1	*
October	32.9	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.9	8.9	8.4	*
November	33.4	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.8	8.2	8.1	*
December	33.4	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.9	8.7	8.7	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.1	8.1	*
1976								
January	32.1	29.4	28.1	1.3	2.7	8.5	8.1	*
February	32.2	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.7	8.3	7.9	*
March	32.1	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.8	8.7	8.1	*
April	31.8	29.1	27.7	1.4	2.7	8.4	7.5	*
May	31.7	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.5	7.8	7.6	*
June	32.0	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.8	8.8	7.9	*
July	32.2	29.4	28.0	1.4	2.8	8.6	8.0	*
August	31.9	29.1	27.7	1.4	2.8	8.7	8.5	*
September	31.8	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.5	7.7	7.7	*
October	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.6	7.3	*
November	32.5	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.4	7.5	7.1	*
December	32.6	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.3	7.0	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	32.1	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.6	8.1	7.7	*
1977								
January	33.7	31.1	29.7	1.4	2.6	7.6	7.5	*
February	33.3	31.0	29.6	1.4	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
March	33.2	31.0	29.6	1.4	2.2	6.5	6.8	*
April	32.8	30.6	29.1	1.5	2.2	6.6	6.7	*
May	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.7	*
June	32.6	30.8	29.4	1.4	1.8	5.5	5.9	*
July	32.9	30.8	29.4	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.9	.8
August	32.3	30.3	28.9	1.4	2.0	6.3	6.5	*
September								
October								
November								
December								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XIV
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/} County	State	
1975								
January	46.9	44.0	42.3	1.7	2.9	6.1	7.1	*
February	47.1	43.8	42.1	1.7	3.3	7.1	8.2	*
March	47.0	43.8	42.2	1.6	3.2	6.7	7.9	.1
April	47.5	43.9	42.4	1.5	3.6	7.6	7.9	*
May	47.2	44.1	42.5	1.6	3.1	6.5	7.9	*
June	47.2	44.2	42.7	1.5	3.0	6.4	8.3	*
July	47.7	44.6	43.2	1.4	3.1	6.5	8.1	*
August	48.1	44.9	43.3	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.0	*
September	48.3	45.0	43.5	1.5	3.3	6.8	8.1	.2
October	48.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	3.3	6.8	8.4	.2
November	49.0	45.9	44.2	1.7	3.1	6.4	8.1	*
December	48.5	45.4	43.7	1.7	3.1	6.4	8.7	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	46.7	43.6	42.1	1.5	3.1	6.7	8.1	*
February	47.3	44.3	42.8	1.5	3.0	6.3	7.9	*
March	47.5	44.5	43.0	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.1	*
April	47.7	44.7	43.1	1.6	3.0	6.2	7.5	*
May	48.2	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.8	5.7	7.6	*
June	47.7	44.6	43.0	1.6	3.1	6.4	7.9	*
July	47.7	44.7	43.2	1.5	3.0	6.2	8.0	*
August	47.9	44.9	43.3	1.6	3.0	6.3	8.5	*
September	48.6	45.8	44.3	1.5	2.8	5.8	7.7	*
October	49.4	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.8	5.7	7.3	*
November	50.2	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.8	5.5	7.1	*
December	50.2	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.8	5.6	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	48.2	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.9	6.0	7.7	*
1977								
January	51.4	48.2	46.7	1.5	3.2	6.2	7.5	*
February	52.3	49.2	47.6	1.6	3.1	5.9	7.1	*
March	51.9	49.3	47.7	1.6	2.6	5.0	6.8	*
April	51.0	48.3	46.6	1.7	2.7	5.3	6.7	*
May	50.3	47.6	46.0	1.6	2.7	5.4	6.7	*
June	50.2	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.0	4.0	5.9	*
July	50.5	48.0	46.4	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.9	.6
August	50.2	48.1	46.4	1.7	2.1	4.3	6.5	.6
September								
October								
November								
December								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

AUGUST 1977

Data for current month are preliminary.

Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.

Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue). Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

JULY 1977

* Less than .05.
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII
NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA
BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Aug. 1977</u>	<u>Aug. 1976</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
			<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	17	28	199	201
MINING	11	22	98	75
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	105	69	619	371
MANUFACTURING	21	23	146	108
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	17	20	121	75
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	153	114	845	471
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	30	37	295	188
SERVICES	117	122	921	657
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	16	17	67	17
STATE TOTAL	487	452	3,311	2,163

TABLE XVIII
NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA
BY LABOR MARKET AREA

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS					NEW BUSINESS FIRMS				
Areas	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1976	Year to Date		Areas	Aug. 1977	Aug. 1976	Year to Date	
			1977	1976				1977	1976
STATE OF MONTANA	487	452	3,311	2,163	HAVRE LMA	14	23	114	80
GREAT FALLS SMSA	64	46	373	191	Blaine	2	5	15	10
BILLINGS SMSA	96	82	505	360	Hill	12	13	76	56
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	21	22	228	168	Liberty	0	5	23	14
Beaverhead	5	2	30	25	HELENA LMA	42	31	262	147
Deer Lodge	7	4	24	23	Broadwater	5	4	17	6
Granite	0	0	6	6	Jefferson	2	0	17	9
Madison	0	2	24	16	Lewis and Clark	35	27	228	132
Powell	1	1	17	13	KALISPELL LMA	51	64	395	263
Silver Bow	8	13	127	85	Flathead	34	47	275	171
BOZEMAN LMA	36	30	312	176	Lake	11	12	68	63
Gallatin	33	28	242	144	Lincoln	6	5	52	29
Meagher	0	2	4	5	LEWISTOWN LMA	9	6	79	41
Park	3	0	66	27	Fergus	8	4	55	24
GLASGOW LMA	17	16	97	92	Golden Valley	0	2	3	4
Daniels	3	3	9	21	Judith Basin	1	0	5	0
Phillips	5	2	12	4	Musselshell	0	0	14	10
Roosevelt	1	3	20	26	Petroleum	0	0	0	2
Sheridan	2	2	20	17	Wheatland	0	0	2	1
Valley	6	6	36	24	MILES CITY LMA	14	29	97	98
GLENDIVE LMA	19	14	115	68	Carter	2	2	7	5
Dawson	5	2	33	18	Custer	3	20	53	48
Garfield	1	0	5	5	Fallon	3	2	8	11
McCone	4	0	9	9	Powder River	2	5	4	11
Prairie	2	3	12	6	Rosebud	3	0	21	20
Richland	7	8	54	29	Treasure	1	0	4	3
Wibaux	0	1	2	1	MISSOULA LMA	82	57	520	326
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	8	14	74	66	Mineral	3	5	12	12
Big Horn	7	5	24	16	Missoula	58	41	387	239
Carbon	1	0	25	19	Ravalli	14	8	84	39
Stillwater	0	3	17	16	Sanders	7	3	37	36
Sweet Grass	0	6	8	15	SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	14	18	140	87
					Chouteau	1	0	12	15
					Glacier	3	2	28	17
					Pondera	4	8	42	21
					Teton	2	5	13	19
					Toole	4	3	45	15

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

AUGUST 1977

COUNTY

INTRASTATE

NO. OF PAYS

AMT. OF PAYS

BEAVERHEAD	119	7,817.00
BIG HORN	348	21,752.00
BLAINE	221	14,493.00
BROADWATER	61	3,796.00
CARBON	168	11,835.00
CARTER	19	1,446.00
CASCADE	2,080	135,980.00
CHOUTEAU	72	4,547.00
CUSTER	237	19,046.00
DANIELS	38	2,688.00
DAWSON	160	10,956.00
DEER LODGE	1,031	71,259.00
FALLON	16	1,024.00
FERGUS	154	10,324.00
FLATHEAD	1,579	109,479.00
GALLATIN	703	48,501.00
GARFIELD	10	813.00
GLACIER	552	37,128.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	15	907.00
GRANITE	88	6,116.00
HILL	457	31,189.00
JEFFERSON	309	22,805.00
JUDITH BASIN	23	1,482.00
LAKE	713	47,111.00
LEWIS & CLARK	1,446	110,125.00
LIBERTY	8	374.00
LINCOLN	894	56,649.00
MADISON	67	4,669.00
MCCONE	19	1,713.00
MEAGHER	32	1,830.00
MINERAL	133	8,948.00
MISSOULA	3,097	214,417.00
MUSSELSHELL	144	9,377.00
PARK	267	17,721.00
PHILLIPS	103	7,003.00
PONDERA	145	9,675.00
POWDER RIVER	6	488.00
POWELL	244	19,662.00
PRAIRIE	12	1,020.00
RAVALLI	678	43,487.00
RICHLAND	120	8,432.00
ROOSEVELT	363	21,310.00
ROSEBUD	278	22,393.00
SANDERS	286	18,483.00
SHERIDAN	75	3,409.00
SILVER BOW	2,846	186,187.00
STILLWATER	72	4,514.00
SWEETGRASS	55	3,097.00
TETON	106	7,249.00
TOOLE	117	8,406.00
TREASURE	8	430.00
VALLEY	803	60,678.00
WHEATLAND	12	938.00
WIBAUX	14	709.00
YELLOWSTONE	2,617	190,517.56
TOTAL FOR STATE	24,240	1,666,404.56
INTERSTATE	1,408	148,802.93
TOTAL	43 25,648	1,815,207.49

TABLE XX

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
January thru August 1977
COUNTY NO. OF PAYS Amt. OF PAYS

BEAVERHEAD	1,709	120,988.00
BIG HORN	3,138	234,697.00
BLAINE	1,666	114,640.00
BROADWATER	651	46,629.00
CARBON	2,229	164,791.00
CARTER	191	13,736.00
CASCADE	23,196	1,662,599.50
CHOUTEAU	958	65,117.00
CUSTER	3,484	278,160.00
DANIELS	343	26,376.00
DAWSON	2,608	189,184.00
DEER LODGE	7,233	556,613.00
FALLON	344	27,967.00
FERGUS	3,933	291,329.00
FLATHEAD	20,981	1,542,466.99
GALLATIN	11,099	825,029.00
GARFIELD	222	18,009.00
GLACIER	5,162	374,172.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	200	12,780.00
GRANITE	1,499	113,556.00
HILL	4,406	321,285.00
JEFFERSON	2,793	220,447.00
JUDITH BASIN	294	22,647.00
LAKE	6,183	423,596.00
LEWIS & CLARK	13,226	1,014,384.97
LIBERTY	205	14,208.00
LINCOLN	10,022	749,238.00
MADISON	1,038	67,464.00
MCCONE	381	26,440.00
MEAGHER	681	52,729.00
MINERAL	2,532	185,181.68
MISSOULA	27,231	1,943,988.50
MUSSELSHELL	2,257	172,001.00
PARK	4,355	298,775.14
PETROLEUM	29	2,781.00
PHILLIPS	1,341	90,999.00
PONDERA	1,461	107,910.00
POWDER RIVER	247	22,167.00
POWELL	2,955	232,930.00
PRAIRIE	494	40,777.00
RAVALLI	7,076	489,387.00
RICHLAND	1,731	128,936.00
ROOSEVELT	2,698	179,716.00
ROSEBUD	3,646	297,377.00
SANDERS	3,475	244,022.00
SHERIDAN	626	44,426.00
SILVER BOW	23,563	1,781,856.00
STILLWATER	1,235	99,879.00
SWEETGRASS	413	32,165.00
TETON	1,233	88,156.75
TOOLE	1,591	123,850.00
TREASURE	322	25,713.00
VALLEY	5,015	363,875.00
WHEATLAND	337	28,637.00
WIBAUX	275	16,739.00
YELLOWSTONE	32,134	2,502,579.79
TOTAL FOR STATE	258,347	19,136,103.32
INTERSTATE	18,350	1,801,661.00
TOTAL	276,697	20,937,764.32

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	32,208	33,451	-1,243	-3.7
Continued Claims ^{1/}	314,503	341,671	-27,168	-8.0
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	276,697	289,465	-12,768	-4.4
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$20,937,764	\$18,838,468	\$2,099,296	11.1

MONTHLY

	<u>August 1977</u>	<u>July 1977</u>	<u>August 1977</u>	<u>Change From Year Ago Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	3,061	4,306	3,096	-35	-1.1
Continued Claims ^{1/}	34,028	29,926	35,933	-1,905	-5.3
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	25,648	21,778	27,158	-1,510	-5.6
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$1,815,207	\$1,517,364	\$1,717,500	\$97,707	5.7
Trust Fund Balance	\$750,115*	\$2,731,340*	\$2,942,434**	-\$2,192,319	-74.5

^{1/} Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.

* Excludes loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$9,284,089.

** Excludes loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$1,366,089.

Commencing with this issue, Trust Fund Balances will now be published without including loan amounts owed to the Federal Unemployment Account. This maneuver will more accurately reflect the funds's cash position.

Seasonally adjusted Continued Claims rose significantly for the fourth consecutive month, albeit the series remains below last year's levels. The Number of Benefit Payments displayed a similar trend by increasing since last month and by decreasing since last year. Conversely, Initial Claims, which convey future rather than present economic conditions, declined both on a monthly and on a yearly basis. As an indication of claimants qualifying for greater weekly benefit payments, the Amount of Benefits Paid series has, as expected, risen with inflation. Finally, a surge in tax collections contributed heavily toward revitalizing the Trust Fund Account.

In summary, recent unemployment insurance statistics have stymied economic growth, while the reaction of initial claims has signified a more promising future.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.